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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

SCORES EXCESSIVE STOCKING  
OF RAW MATERIALS

CAUSES DELAYS IN FLOW OF GOODS -- Trud, No 72, 4 Dec 49

Delays and stoppages in the flow of goods and in economic production in general are frequently being caused by the lack of liquid operating funds. The reason for this shortage of funds is usually the excessive stocking of raw materials, equipment, spare parts, etc. Thus, for instance, the fur factory in Iskur has a stock of skins on hand sufficient to cover its production for several years; the G. Dimitrov machine plant has a large number of new ploughs which have been kept in stock for a long time; and the Yavor lumber mill in Asenovgrad has all its operating funds tied up in furniture and wood products, which have now been crowding the stockrooms for some time.

Considerable delays in the flow of goods and a consequent freezing of funds have also been noticed in foreign trade operations. In the import business the delays are produced by slow distribution procedures, noticeable in "Metalimport" and other organizations. In the export trade, they are mainly the result of delays in signing trade agreements. Wine destined for export to Czechoslovakia in 1949 could not be shipped until fall because of the delayed signing of the trade agreement. As a result, excessive fermentation produced losses and considerable funds were tied up. Any attempts to explain the situation usually refer to the failure of the importing countries to adhere to the agreements.

Another incident of this kind occurred recently in Kyustendil: barrels of fruit and vegetable preserves ready for export could not be shipped because exporters refused the merchandise, claiming that it was not prepared according to specifications.

Due to the sluggishness of distributing organizations, stocks of merchandise have to wait for a period of 15-20 days before any orders for their disposal are received.

The same conditions prevail in Sofia.

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According to the present procedure, stocks of merchandise are to be reported before the 5th of every month; then, before the 15th the Trade and Supply organizations send printed statements of stocks on hand to regional soviets, which in turn distribute the statements to their regional agents between the 15th and 20th. Between the 20th and the 25th these agents allocate the merchandise to particular sectors. This procedure means that the goods are kept in warehouses about 20 days before they reach the consumer, tying up considerable funds and antagonizing the public.

This is unpardonable indifference and laxity on the part of the leading economic organizations. Merchandise is stocked in places where there is no demand for the article, while a shortage of these goods is acute in a nearby locality. This is true, for example, in Sofia, where stocks of poor-quality children's knitwear valued at 4 million leva have been piled up since 1945. They have recently been offered for sale without ration coupons, but even this measure could not promote the sales. At the plenary session of Trade Unions, Dr Dobrev, finally solved the problem by proposing that the merchandise be distributed by simple registration in the family ration books.

Another paradoxical situation has developed in the "Narmag" State Merchandise Store in Sofia, where 4,000 women's cotton and silk dresses have accumulated in stock, and 120 more are being received every day. All available space is crowded, and sales are very slow because of the scarcity of cotton ration coupons. Proposals to sell the merchandise without coupons have been disregarded by the Ministry of Domestic Trade, and a further request from the store for inspectors to examine the situation has also been ignored, although the store is only 50 meters away from the Ministry.

The campaign for a speedier release of merchandise to the consumer will also promote the liquidation of frozen funds. The banks may be a very important factor in this connection, as they represent state control over circulation and use of funds. They control estimates and production plans and are on the alert to avoid any hitch in the flow of goods and the consequent freezing of funds.

The speedy release of goods to consumers who want them and are in a position to pay for them will be not only an act of economic wisdom but also an important factor in the present election campaign.

MORTGAGES USED FOR BANK LOANS -- Izgrev, No 1617, 29 Dec 49

The Bulgarian Investment Bank announces that mortgage contracts may be used to secure housing loans. The latter will be drawn for the amount which the party has actually received as a loan from the Investment Bank.

CLEARING OPERATIONS WITH SWEDEN -- Izgrev, No 1618, 31 Dec 49

The Bulgarian National Bank notifies all state organizations, communities, communal and independent enterprises, firms, and private individuals to file statements of any receipts obtained from Sweden during the period from May 1945 to the present date. All statements must be presented within 10 days at the local branches of the BNB and, in Sofia, at the Head Office, clearing division.

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YUGOSLAVIA WITHDRAWS 50-DINAR BILLS -- Izgrev, No 1619, 31 Dec 49

The Bulgarian National Bank announces that Yugoslavia has withdrawn from circulation its 50-dinar DFYU [unidentified abbreviation] bills. The deadline for exchanging the bills expires 31 December 1949. An exemption period will however be extended by the Yugoslav National Bank until 31 January 1950. Holders of such bills are advised to present them for exchange at the Bulgarian National Bank, which will forward them for exchange to Yugoslavia.

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